



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 19, 2017

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Federal Communications Commission's work identifying and eliminating unnecessary rules and regulations and modernizing our Nation's telecommunications networks. In your letter, you recommend that the Commission include a transition period for any changes to our special access rules to provide all market participants with sufficient time to evaluate and adapt. Your views are very important and your letter has been entered into the record of the proceeding.

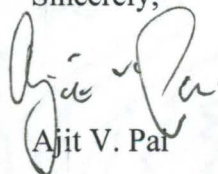
I am pleased to report that in April, after twelve years of studying the market conditions, a massive data collection, and a robust public record garnered from numerous requests for comment, the Commission completed the rulemaking. We modernized regulation in significant portions of the market in recognition of the substantial and growing competition in the provision of business data services in areas served by price cap incumbent local exchange carriers. In particular, we used competitive market test to determine where continued regulation of special access services is needed. In counties where the test finds sufficient facilities-based competition to discipline prices, we allowed for relief of ex ante pricing regulation and began the process of de-tariffing special access service.

Consistent with your recommendation for a reasonable transition, and after careful consideration, the Commission adopted a 36 month transition period from tariffing to detariffing, during which all market participants have an opportunity to reach private agreements that will work for their businesses going forward. Additionally, the Commission required price cap carriers to freeze their tariff rates for the TDM end user channel terminations in newly deregulated counties for six months.

Modernizing our rules will benefit communities across the nation. Outdated regulations reduce investment, deter new competition, and raise prices. The impact of increased investment, competition, and competitive entry should be lower prices and new deployments of next-generation networks that will provide communities with robust broadband for the long term.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 19, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate
124 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Federal Communications Commission's work identifying and eliminating unnecessary rules and regulations and modernizing our Nation's telecommunications networks. In your letter, you recommend that the Commission include a transition period for any changes to our special access rules to provide all market participants with sufficient time to evaluate and adapt. Your views are very important and your letter has been entered into the record of the proceeding.

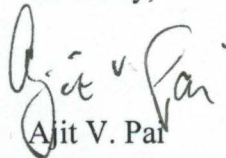
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Ajit V. Pai

P.S. La Cheeserrie!



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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 19, 2017

The Honorable French Hill
U.S. House of Representatives
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hill:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Federal Communications Commission's work identifying and eliminating unnecessary rules and regulations and modernizing our Nation's telecommunications networks. In your letter, you recommend that the Commission include a transition period for any changes to our special access rules to provide all market participants with sufficient time to evaluate and adapt. Your views are very important and your letter has been entered into the record of the proceeding.

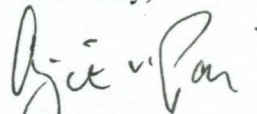
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